

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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**Monday, October 15, 2007, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Town / County Conference Room**  
**Mammoth Lakes, CA**

## ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present  
**Kirk Stapp, Vice Chair**  
**Neil McCarroll, Councilman**  
**Tom Farnetti, Supervisor**  
**Wendy Sugimura, Councilman**

Caltrans  
**Brad Mettam**  
**Ryan Dermody**

Staff Present  
**Scott Burns, Director**  
**Ray Jarvis, Co-Director**  
**Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County**  
**Gwen Plummer, Planner, Mono County**  
**Kelly Garcia, Assistant Director P/W**  
**Jennifer Hansen, Secretary**

Other  
**Monicka Watterson, ESTA**  
**Phil McGuire, Interim Executive Director, ESTA**  
**Karen Johnston, Assistant Town Manager, TOML**  
**Dave Wilbrecht, CAO, Mono County**

*Agenda items may not have been taken in order.*

**The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Stapp at 9:02 and also led the pledge of allegiance.**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
No public comments.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 10, 2007**  
Minutes from September 10<sup>th</sup> will be carried over to the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

**3. TRANSIT**  
a. Status report on Mountain Express and alternatives for mid-day route funding  
Phil McGuire, Interim Executive Director for ESTA brought a recommendation before the Commission to postpone the decision regarding the allocation of funds resulting from the elimination of the June Lake midday service run until a Short Range Transit Plan is developed. The Short Range Transit Plan will identify transit needs and suggest priorities for utilizing available funds for new or expanded services.  
Mr. McGuire stated that there is a planning process meeting schedule for Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to start preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consulting services to

undertake the planning process. The LTC's role in the planning process will be through funding and technical support. ESTA is also proposing a fare increase.

Vice Chairman Stapp asked who the parties were who are involved for the transit plan and scope of work? Mr. McGuire stated that this will be an inclusive plan. All four jurisdictions of ESTA, the tribes, Caltrans, and Mammoth Mountain will all be involved throughout the planning process. Vice Chairman Stapp also questioned who the lead will be? Mr. McGuire responded that ESTA will be the lead agency. The ESTA Board represents all four jurisdictions. For the Short Range Transit Plan, ESTA will more than likely be the implementing agency. Vice Chairman Stapp also questioned if there will be a separate transit plan for capital expenditures? Mr. McGuire stated that Caltrans will be a major player in putting together the capital plan. Vice Chairman Stapp asked whether or not Chairman Hazard is up to speed on this? Mr. Burns said probably not. There were no further actions recommended. There was a consensus of support for ESTA to move forward with the planning process.

Commissioner Farnetti posed the question if it will be the LTC's role to continue to allocate funds? Mr. McGuire said it would remain that way as it is stated so in State law with certain protocols to follow. Commissioner Farnetti stated he was supportive of allowing ESTA to develop the Short Range Transit Plan and put the allocations of funds on hold until this plan is developed. He is hoping that with the \$6,784.25 savings of the midday route, the money will be filtered back into the county where the money came from. Mr. McGuire stated that the Town of Mammoth Lakes is currently handling the accounting system for ESTA. ESTA plans to implement new data collection systems to collect numbers from the four jurisdictions. Once these systems are in place, there will be more direction on how to utilize the midday savings.

Commissioner McCarroll posted the question if ESTA has spoken with John Wentworth and MLTPA to be involved in the planning process? Mr. McGuire stated there has been no communication. Commissioner McCarroll said he will get in touch with John Wentworth to discuss further.

Mr. Burns thanked Mr. McGuire for participating in the meeting and updating the Commission on the strategies of ESTA. Mr. Burns let Mr. McGuire know that there is transit funding available to help ESTA in their planning through the Overall Work Program.

b. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Business Plan

The ESTA Board of Directors adopted a Business Plan at the August meeting. There are still some things to work out within the Plan. There are some organizational questions, issues on authority to conduct business, the Short Range Transit Plan, future budgeting strategies, and other controversial issues.

c. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) update

There is a meeting being held today. Gwen Plummer will be staffing the meeting. Ms. Plummer handed out to the Commission a sheet showing the ridership history by fiscal year. It was reported that the numbers for September were down due to some early season storms that closed Tioga Pass. There will be more meetings to get the town and county involved. There was an August meeting that was not well attended or any good items or suggestions were given. More updates will follow after the meeting held today.

**4. ADMINISTRATION**

a. Appointment of new LTC Co-Director

Mr. Ray Jarvis, Public Works Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has replaced Bill Manning as the Co-Director of the LTC.

**5. CALTRANS**

a. Update on activities in Mono County

Mr. Brad Mettam reported that the Mono Basin Gaz Ex work is continuing until too much snow is on the ground. It is anticipated to be completed around Thanksgiving, weather permitting, or completed in the spring.

Mr. Mettam reported that the entrance improvements to the Coleville Post Office will be for easier access to the driveway by means of making adjustments to the shoulder.

Mr. Mettam also reported on the Black Rock Ground Breaking ceremony scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hazard will speak on behalf of the LTC at the ceremony.

Mr. Mettam also reported on a request for funding that was granted for \$200,000 coming through District 9. This focus for this funding will be 395 and those communities within.

## **6. STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

- a. Consider adopting Resolution 2007-11 to amend the 2000 RTIP to increase funding by \$514,000 for the Lundy Lake Road Rehabilitation Project

This project was originally adopted as part of the 2000 RTIP. The project is 5.2 miles long from U.S. Highway 395 to the west end of Lundy Lake Road. The \$514,000 in additional funding will allow the project to proceed at its original scope. The increase is needed to offset higher material costs.

Commissioner McCarroll posted the question if bike lanes will be included with this project if the funding increase is approved? Ms. Kelly Garcia stated that bike lanes will be apart of the project with the three foot shoulder on each side. The drainage for the project has already been completed.

Commissioner Farnetti motioned to amend Resolution 2007-11 to increase funding by \$514,000 for the Lundy Lake Road Rehabilitation Project. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 4-0. Those in favor: Stapp, Farnetti, Sugimura, and McCarroll.

- b. 2008 STIP/RTIP update

Mr. Gerry Le Francois provided an update on the 2008 RTIP funding. This is a new five year, \$11 million funding cycle for transportation projects including transit, transportation enhancements and road rehabilitation. Mr. Le Francois handed out the draft fund estimate which the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is scheduled to adopt on October 17. Mr. Le Francois reported that final RTIP's must be submitted to the CTC by February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and adoption by the CTC is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Mr. Le Francois will bring a draft of the RTIP to the December meeting. The draft will be adopted at either the December meeting or the January meeting. The PPM funding cycle needs to be looked into further. Mr. Le Francois also reported that the CTC is not allocating funds for local road projects. The Town/County will meet to analyze how to utilize what funds are received. The Town of Mammoth's Circulation Element will be integrated into the Regional Transportation Plan.

Commissioner McCarroll posed the question as to whether MLTPA was being incorporated into the RTIP. Mr. Le Francois stated that the County takes the recommendation from the Town of Mammoth on major town projects. Commissioner McCarroll also posed the question if the contract with MLTPA for planning was sufficient. Mr. Le Francois said yes it is pointing in the right direction.

Ms. Kelly Garcia mentioned that for Class I Routes/Bike Routes, Public Works is looking into PPM monies and funding.

Vice Chairman Stapp inquired about the new regulations regarding green house gases and climate change. Mr. Le Francois stated funding is being used for these types of studies. The county will use RTP's from other areas moving forward with these regulations (a handout was given at the end of the meeting).

Commissioner McCarroll posed the question to Mr. Mettam regarding MLTPA railways/right-a-ways. Mr. Mettam said that there are still some railways/right-a-ways in existence. He stated the Rails to Trails is a federal program and something that MLTPA could look into.

## **7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. SANBAG update – U.S. 395 Realignment

Mr. Mettam thanks the town and the county for their efforts with this project. All efforts have helped greatly in their efforts to move forward with this project. Mr. Mettam said not to let this project out of the radar as it is important to keep pushing the importance of preserving the corridor and the right of way.

Commissioner McCarroll asked Mr. Mettam who we are competing with regarding this project. Mr. Mettam stated land development and funding from the Town of Victorville.

b. Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency Public Meeting Schedule – Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF)

This was an informational item only – there is no impact in this area.

c. Global Warming Handout

Vice Chairman Stapp handed out the new global warming component for EIR's.

**8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – December 10, 2007**

There will be no meeting in November due to the Veteran's Day holiday and the third Monday of the month being Thanksgiving week. It was agreed to postpone the next meeting to December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**9. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 by Vice Chairman Stapp.